



State Senator  
**William H.  
Nickerson**

Dear Constituent,

The 2005 session of the Connecticut General Assembly has dawned with a bright new day. Governor Jodi Rell during her short term of office has earned tremendous respect among legislators, the press and the public. Her calm, quiet style, her strong emphasis on government ethics and her bi-partisan approach to governing have won her unprecedented high marks. It is a pleasure to serve with such an outstanding leader.

In this atmosphere I am optimistic about making significant progress on long neglected problems:

***Transportation*** – We must move urgently to authorize the replacement of the 340 rail cars on the Metro-North rail line which are far beyond their useful life and are responsible for the continued deterioration of service. Only in this way can we work our way out of the unsustainable glut on I-95 and the Merritt Parkway.

***Medical Malpractice*** – Soaring medical insurance costs dictate that we must have broad scale reform in the entire medical malpractice field in Connecticut. This should include not only a cap on non-economic damages in jury awards, but also improved peer review of doctors in order to prevent injuries.

***Ethics*** – I fully support the Governor's proposal to attack the problem of special interest influence in state government. She has proposed prohibiting lobbyists' contributions to political campaigns and strengthening the role of the Ethics Commission which needs enhanced powers to enforce ethical standards for elected officials.

I welcome hearing from you with your thoughts and comments on these and any other issues of interest to you.

Very truly yours,

William H. Nickerson